

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Heinrich Hummel  
Serial No. :  
Filed : March 5, 2001  
Title : METHOD FOR DISTRIBUTING THE DATA-TRAFFIC LOAD ON A  
COMMUNICATION NETWORK AND A COMMUNICATION NETWORK  
FOR IMPLEMENTING THIS METHOD

Art Unit : Unknown  
Examiner : Unknown

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the application as follows:

In the specification:

Paragraph beginning at page 1, line 6 please insert Background of the Invention.

Paragraph beginning at page 3, before line 3 please insert Summary of the Invention.

Paragraph beginning at page 7, line 28 please delete [The schematic diagrams are as follows:] and insert Brief Description of the Drawings

Paragraph beginning at page 8, before line 3 please insert Detailed Description of the Drawings

In the claims:

Please amend the following claims as follows:

3. (Amended) Method as claimed in Claim 1, characterized in that:  
at least one network node (NK1.. NK4) sends link-line-specific and/or route-specific  
and/or connection-specific loading information (A1.. A4), relating to the outgoing link lines (L1..  
L6) and/or routes (LW1, LW2, LW3) and/or connections from this network node (NK1.. NK4), to

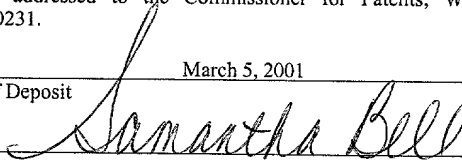
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Samantha Bell

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the data-traffic-monitoring system (ZNK) to allow data-transfer-loading values (A1.. A4) to be ascertained.

4. (Amended) Method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that:  
the data packets (DP) to be transferred have different transfer priorities, and that:  
at least one network node (NK1.. NK4) sends transfer-priority-specific loading information (A1.. A4), to the data-traffic-monitoring system (ZNK) to allow data-transfer-loading values (A1.. A4) to be ascertained.

6. (Amended) Method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that:  
destination-network-node-specific distribution information (V1.. V4) is determined for a particular network node (NK1.. NK4) and sent to that network node (NK1.. NK4).

7. (Amended) Method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that:  
in order to determine distribution information (V1.. V4), previously ascertained data transfer loading values (A1.. A4) and/or previously ascertained distribution information (V1.. V4) are extrapolated relative to time.

8. (Amended) Method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that:  
the distribution information (V1.. V4) for a network node (NK1.. NK4) includes quota details that specify, for each route in a group of alternative routes (LW1, LW2, LW3) leading from this node to a destination network node (NK4), what proportion of the data packets (DP) addressed to this destination network node (NK4) should be transferred over the route concerned (LW1, LW2, LW3).

10. (Amended) Method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that:  
the address information (QA) includes source address information that identifies the sender of the data packet (DP) concerned.

11. (Amended) Method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that:  
the allocation of address classes takes place on the basis of stored address  
information from data packets transmitted previously.

12. (Amended) Method as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that:  
based on data-transfer-loading values (A1.. A4) that have been ascertained, the  
data-traffic monitoring system (ZNK) determines a new, alternative route for a network node  
(NK1.. NK4), and sends route information describing the new route to this network node (NK1..  
NK4).

REMARKS

Attached is a marked-up version of the changes being made by the current amendment.  
Applicant asks that all claims be examined.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 5, 2001

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**"Version with markings to show changes made"**

In the specification:

Paragraph beginning at page 1, line 6 please insert Background of the Invention.

Paragraph beginning at page 3, before line 3 please insert Summary of the Invention.

Paragraph beginning at page 7, line 28 has been amended as follows:

[The schematic diagrams are as follows:] Brief Description of the Drawings.

Paragraph beginning at page 8, before line 3 please insert Detailed Description of the Drawings.

In the claims:

Claim 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10 11, and 12 have been amended as follows:

3. (Amended) Method as claimed in Claim 1 [or 2], characterized in that:  
at least one network node (NK1.. NK4) sends link-line-specific and/or route-specific and/or  
connection-specific loading information (A1.. A4), relating to the outgoing link lines (L1..  
L6)and/or routes (LW1, LW2, LW3) and/or connections from this network node (NK1.. NK4), to  
the data-traffic-monitoring system (ZNK) to allow data-transfer-loading values (A1.. A4)to be  
ascertained.

4. (Amended) Method as claimed in [one of the above claims] claim 1,  
characterized in that:  
the data packets (DP) to be transferred have different transfer priorities, and that:  
at least one network node (NK1.. NK4) sends transfer-priority-specific loading  
information (A1.. A4), to the data-traffic-monitoring system (ZNK) to allow data-transfer-loading  
values (A1.. A4) to be ascertained.

6. (Amended) Method as claimed in [one of the above claims] claim 1,  
characterized in that:

destination-network-node-specific distribution information (V1.. V4) is  
determined for a particular network node (NK1.. NK4) and sent to that network node (NK1..  
NK4).

7. (Amended) Method as claimed in [one of the above claims] claim 1,  
characterized in that:

in order to determine distribution information (V1.. V4), previously ascertained  
datatransfer loading values (A1.. A4) and/or previously ascertained distribution information (V1..  
V4) are extrapolated relative to time.

8. (Amended) Method as claimed in [one of the above claims] claim 1,  
characterized in that:

the distribution information (V1.. V4) for a network node (NK1.. NK4) includes quota  
details that specify, for each route in a group of alternative routes (LW1, LW2, LW3) leading  
from this node to a destination network node (NK4), what proportion of the data packets (DP)  
addressed to this destination network node (NK4) should be transferred over the route concerned  
(LW1, LW2, LW3).

10. (Amended) Method as claimed in [one of the above claims] claim 1,  
characterized in that:

the address information (QA) includes source address information that identifies the  
sender of the data packet (DP) concerned.

11. (Amended) Method as claimed in [one of the above claims] claim 1,  
characterized in that:

the allocation of address classes takes place on the basis of stored address information  
from data packets transmitted previously.

based on data-transfer-loading values (A1.. A4) that have been ascertained, the data-trafficmonitoring system (ZNK) determines a new, alternative route for a network node (NK1.. NK4), and sends route information describing the new route to this network node (NK1.. NK4).